



MDC Resource Science

Missouri's 2012 Timber Product Output Survey

Science Notes



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Information Need

Detailed information on the level of wood harvested from Missouri's forests is necessary for intelligent planning and decision making in wood procurement, forest resources management, and forest industry development. Likewise, researchers need current forest industry and industrial roundwood information for planning projects. In the spring of 2013 the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) undertook a detailed census of primary wood processors throughout the state, asking for information on their firms from 2012.

Results

- In 2012, Missouri's primary wood using industry was comprised of 374 sawmills, 16 log brokers, and 29 mills producing other products. The number of large mills increased from 18 to 31 from 2009 to 2012 (Table 1).
- The primary wood-using mills in Missouri processed nearly 670,000 MBF (which is 670 million board feet) of industrial roundwood (logs), over 80,000 MBF more than processed in 2009.
- Over 89% of the industrial roundwood processed by the State's primary wood-using mills was cut from Missouri's forest lands.
- The Ozark Region was the leading supplier of industrial roundwood in Missouri, with about 200,000 MBF, or almost 33% of the Missouri total. The red oak group was the most harvested species group in 2012, accounting for almost 46% of the total industrial roundwood volume (Table 2,3).
- Comparing harvest results from the 2012 primary wood processor survey with 2011 growth results from Forest Inventory and Analysis plot work, shows 50% of red oak and 43% of walnut growth was harvested. Overall, about 33% of growth was harvested.
- Weighting responses by mill volume, only 8% of mill residues went unused. About 25% were used for charcoal and 33% were used for "miscellaneous and other" purposes (Table 4).

Using the information

Silvicultural operations, such as timber harvests, are one of the main tools in MDC Forestry's toolbox for managing the state's forest resources for wildlife habitat, recreation, clean water and forest health. Up-to-date harvest and production information allows MDC foresters and administrators to gauge how effective management has been, not just on public lands but on private lands as well. When combined with estimates of growth, the 2012 information shows that MDC management levels are sustainable.

Special thanks are given to the primary wood-using firms for supplying information for this study and to the Missouri Department of Conservation Foresters for canvassing the respondents. This Science Note does not include complete and/or up-to-date data from surrounding states (imports and exports to and from Missouri). As other states report, figures in this report may change.

Table 1. Number of active primary wood-using mills in Missouri, 2012.

Type	Size	# of Mills
Sawmill	Large ¹	32
	Medium ²	110
	Small ³	233
Sub-Total		375
Log broker		16
Other		28
Total		419

Table 4. Use of residues (weighted by mill size) by type in Missouri, 2012

Residue Use	Pct.
Used for products	10.5%
Used for charcoal	25.1%
Used for commercial fuel	15.0%
Used for domestic fuel	33.4%
Other uses	8.1%
Not used	8.1%

Table 2. Harvest and percentage of growth by species group in Missouri, 2012.

Species Group	Harvest Volume (MBF) ¹	Pct. Of Total	Pct. Of Growth
Shortleaf pines	33,232	5.1%	29.6%
Other softwoods	9,711	1.5%	32.1%
White oaks	172,270	29.0%	35.8%
Red oaks	285,419	45.9%	51.8%
Hickory	26,420	4.4%	16.9%
Hard maple	2,574	0.5%	11.5%
Soft maple	5,887	1.0%	12.6%
Sweetgum	1,072	0.2%	20.6%
Blackgum	64	0.0%	1.4%
Ash	6,006	1.0%	12.4%
Cottonwood	17,898	3.0%	36.2%
Yellow-poplar	914	0.4%	65.0%
Black walnut	27,541	6.0%	43.3%
Other soft hardwoods	10,521	1.7%	5.7%
Other hard hardwoods	66	0.0%	0.1%
Noncomm. spp.	1,638	0.3%	0.0%
Total	670,589		33.1%

Table 3. Volume in MBF of wood received from Missouri (by MDC Regions) and other states, 2012.

Region	Volume
Central	51,475
Kansas City	12,106
Northeast	30,382
Northwest	20,481
Ozark	200,233
Southeast	160,212
Southwest	62,000
St. Louis	64,347
MO Total	601,239
Other States	69,350
Total	670,589

¹ More than 5 million MBF

² Between 1 and 5 million MBF

³ Less than 1 million MBF

⁴ All board foot data in this report have been converted to International 1/4-inch scale.

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Keywords: forest, growth, harvest, timber, wood products